

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #71B-11 Building Date: 1901

Building Name: Jacob Seitz House

Location: 8131 Chestnut Street, Bowie, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Fair/Inaccessible

Description

The Jacob Seitz House is a two-and-one-half-story frame cross-gable house. It was originally T-shaped in plan, but has had several additions to the rear which make it roughly rectangular today. It is distinguished by a clipped gable roof, a pyramidal-roof corner tower, and geometric openwork porch trim. Entrance is in the first bay of the main west gable front, through a panelled door with two-pane sidelights over wainscot panels. Across the west gable front, and originally wrapping around part of the north facade, is a one-story hip-roof porch with molded cornice and geometric openwork frieze course. This porch has turned posts and a plain railing, rests on brick piers with lattice infill, and is approached by a flight of brick steps. The west gable front is further distinguished by a clipped gable (jerkinhead) at the ridge. At the southwest corner of the house, and forming the first bay of the south facade, is a three-window projecting semi-octagonal bay. This projecting bay becomes a freestanding tower above the pitch of the main gable roof, and is surmounted by a steeply pitched pyramidal roof. The original siding of the house (probably German) is now covered by red hexagonal asphalt shingles.

Significance

The Jacob Seitz House is a frame dwelling built at the end of the Victorian period, at the southern edge of the town of Bowie (originally called Huntington). It is a transitional style building, incorporating some decorative elements from the Queen Anne style into a modest cross gable dwelling typical of the early twentieth century. A 16-acre property at the south edge of Huntington was sold in 1878 to Henry Seitz, a plasterer and house builder who had immigrated from Germany in 1844, and settled in Huntington during the 1870's. One of Seitz' sons, Jacob, married in 1899, and in 1901, his parents deeded to him a one-acre parcel of their home place. On this parcel in 1901, Jacob Seitz built the subject house, a modest frame dwelling typical of houses being built at the turn of the century; it is still owned by heirs of Jacob Seitz. Although altered, the Seitz house retains its original lines. It is set back from the road in a grove of trees, approached by an unpaved circle drive, thus preserving much of its historic setting.

Acreage: 1.93 acres

Magi No.

DOE yes no

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Jacob Seitz House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 8131 Chestnut Avenue

 not for publication

city, town Bowie

 vicinity of

congressional district 5

state Md.

county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture	<u> </u> museum
<u> </u> building(s)	<u> </u> private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial	<u> </u> park
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational	<u> </u> private residence
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment	<u> </u> religious
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> </u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government	<u> </u> scientific
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial	<u> </u> transportation
	<u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<u> </u> military	<u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Eleanor Rose and Mary Seitz

street & number 6103 Princess Garden Parkway

telephone no.:

city, town Lanham

state and zip code Md. 20706

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse

liber 5424

street & number Main Street

folio 295

city, town Upper Marlboro

state Md.

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date

 federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Survey No. P.G.#71B-11

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Jacob Seitz House is a two-and-one-half-story frame cross-gable house. It was originally T-shaped in plan, but has had several additions to the rear which make it roughly rectangular today. It is distinguished by a clipped gable roof, a pyramidal-roof corner tower, and geometric openwork porch trim. It stands on a lot of land a short distance south of Huntington, now known as Bowie. It faces west toward Chestnut Avenue, the main road of that 1870 town, and is approached by an unpaved circle driveway through old trees.

This is a front-gabled house with a rear cross gable section at right angles which forms the bar of the T. The main facade is the two-bay west gable front. Entrance is in the first bay, through a panelled door with two-pane sidelights over wainscot panels, and a plain board surround. Across the west gable front (and originally wrapping around part of the north facade) is a one-story hip-roof porch with molded cornice and geometric openwork frieze course. This porch has turned posts and a plain railing, rests on brick piers with lattice infill, and is approached by a flight of brick steps. The west gable front is further distinguished by a clipped gable (jerkinhead) at the ridge.

At the southwest corner of the house, and forming the first bay of the south facade, is a three-window projecting semi-octagonal bay. This projecting bay becomes a freestanding tower above the pitch of the main gable roof, and is surmounted by a steeply pitched pyramidal roof.

The original siding of the house (probably German) is now covered by red hexagonal asphalt shingles. The roof is covered with green asphalt shingle. A tall corbelled brick chimney rises from the intersection of the gable ridges of the main house. The cornice is boxed with crown molding, and is returned at the north and south gable ends (of the bar of the T). Only the west gable front has the clipped gable treatment. Windows are generally 2/2 double hung sash, with plain board surrounds painted white, and no shutters. The corner posts and porch trim, as well as the cornice, are also painted white. The foundation of the original T-shaped house is of local iron-bearing sandstone.

Only a few details of the interior were observed. The stair rises along the north wall inside the principal west door, and has a turned newel and turned balusters. Door and window surrounds are of multi-band molding with bulls-eye corner blocks.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1901 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Jacob Seitz House is a frame dwelling built at the end of the Victorian period, at the southern edge of the town of Bowie (originally called Huntington). It is a transitional style building, incorporating some decorative elements from the Queen Anne style into a modest cross gable dwelling typical of the early twentieth century.

In 1870, Ben H. Plumb purchased several parcels of land through which the Popes Creek line of the Baltimore and Potomac was being constructed. At a point where it joined a branch line into Washington, Plumb surveyed and platted a town of approximately one square mile, and circulated a prospectus which described the proposed new town, Huntington, and offered building lots for sale.¹

Plumb purchased some of this property from a local farmer, Grafton Isaacs, and then mortgaged the land to Isaacs. Because Plumb defaulted on the mortgage payments, Isaacs brought suit against Plumb in 1876, claiming that Plumb had divided the land into lots and villa sites, and was in the process of selling land which technically still belonged to Isaacs. The Equity Court decided against Plumb, and appointed trustees to sell the mortgaged land. Part of the land was sold to Bernard Luers (he subsequently built his house on that property, cf. #71B-12); the 16 acre property adjoining Luers' on the south was sold in 1878 to Henry Seitz, a plasterer and house builder who had immigrated from Germany in 1844, and settled in Huntington during the 1870's.² Seitz was one of a substantial number of German-born residents of the new town; he built a frame dwelling near the Popes Creek line, in which he raised his family.³

One of Seitz' sons, Jacob, married in 1899, and in 1901, his parents deeded to him a one acre parcel of their home place. On this parcel in 1901, Jacob Seitz built the subject house, a modest frame dwelling typical of houses being built at the turn of the century. Originally a T-shaped cross-gable house, it was distinguished by a pyramidal-roof tower built into the south corner of the T. Its porch was decorated by a geometric

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PS-2746

#7 (Continued)

There have been several additions and alterations to the house. That part of the porch which wrapped around the north facade has been enclosed, forming a one-story shed-roof addition which rests on a concrete block foundation. There have been at least three additions to the rear (east) of the house: a one-story shed-roof addition to the south, and a two-story flat-roofed addition to the north, to which a further one-story shed has been added. An open one-story shed-roof porch spans the remaining space on the east facade.

Southeast of the house are two outbuildings, a gable-roof board-and-batten wagon shed, and a smaller gable-roof shed with plain vertical siding.

#8 (Continued)

openwork frieze course, and similar design probably originally formed the balustrade as well (cf. 71B-2-2). Over the years, several rear additions and a small side addition have been built onto the house, and its original siding (probably German) has been covered with red shingle. When viewed from the front, however, it retains its original lines. It is set back from the road in a grove of trees, approached by an unpaved circle drive, thus preserving much of its historic setting. It is still owned by heirs of Jacob Seitz.

Notes

1 Prospectus of Huntington, 1870.

2 Prince George's County Equity #1041, #1100. Census for Prince George's County, District #14, 1880; Prince George's County Deed, JWB #11:232.

3 Census for Prince George's County, District #14, 1880, 1900.

4 ibid, Prince George's County Deed #2:557; Census for Prince George's County, District #14, 1910; interview with members of Seitz family, spring 1986.

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WILLIAM T
HUBBERT
5373 / 083
480A. P.213

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LAUREL BONIE RD

71B-2-1

71B-2-6

71B-2-7

71B-2-5

8899

C-C

71B-2-2

R-55

C-C

71B-2-4

71B-2-3

71B-13

1162

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I-1

NEW JERSEY
STEEL CORP.
5545/680

NANCY BROWN
4182/813

R-R

71B-12

71B-11

PG 71B-11

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9736

9646

5412

1.44 A.

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1.25 A.

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PG#71B-11

Seitz House
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
March 1986
Northwest 3/4 elevation
Neg: MD Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG#71B-11

Seitz House
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
March 1986
West Elevation
Neg: MD Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG#71B-11

Seitz House
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
March 1986
Southeast 3/4 elevation
Neg: MD Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG#71B-11

Seitz House
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
March 1986
Northeast 3/4 elevation
Neg: MD Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD